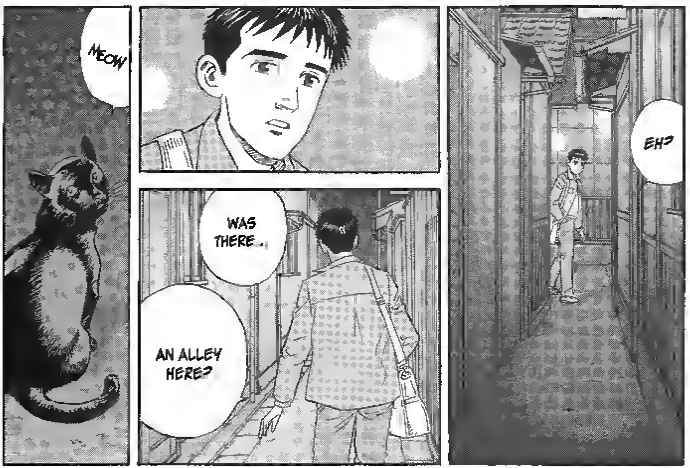
# Tsuki no Yoru

## The Night of the Moon

Jiro Taniguchi

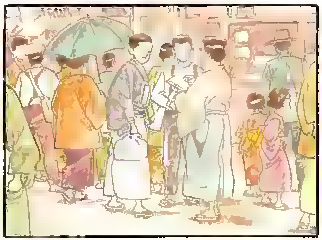


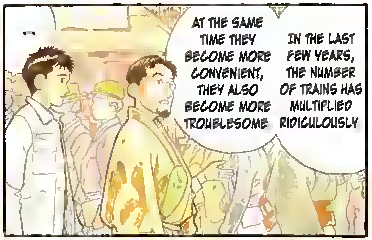
Without thinking, I entered the alley, following after the black cat.
AH!
MEOW
As I walked ...
it somehow felt as though my soul was floating away.
カ゛ー
カ゛ー
カ゛ー
カ゛ー
カ゛ー
カ゛ー

I found myself looking up at the broad sky.

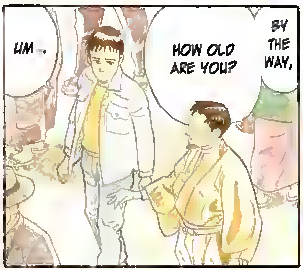
IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO CAPTURE THIS SKY ON CANVAS.
MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE A POINT OF MENTIONING IT TO THE PAINTER, HARAGUCHI-KUN.
THEY'RE SNOW CLOUDS.
LOOKING UP AT THEM LIKE THIS, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY'RE NOT MOVING AT ALL.
BUT IN REALITY,
THEY'RE MOVING FASTER THAN A HURRICANE TEARING ACROSS THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH.
I was at a loss. My thoughts just kept going around in circles.
I wondered... what exactly was going on.
What happened to me?
I THINK SO, TOO.
I answered automatically.
YEAH.
...
IS THE TRAIN TOO LOUD FOR YOU?
HEY,

I CAN'T GET USED TO CHANGING TRAINS
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE STATION MASTERS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MANAGE AT ALL.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

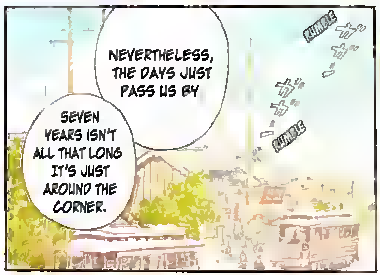


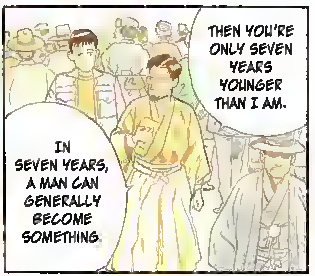

AT THE SAME TIME THEY BECOME MORE CONVENIENT, THEY ALSO BECOME MORE TROUBLESOME.
IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE NUMBER OF TRAINS HAS MULTIPLIED RIDICULOUSLY

I'M... TWENTY-THREE


UM...
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
BY THE WAY,

THE YOUNG ARE LUCKY TO HAVE SO MUCH VIGOR AND VITALITY.


NEVERTHELESS, THE DAYS JUST PASS US BY
SEVEN YEARS ISN'T ALL THAT LONG IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


THEN YOU'RE ONLY SEVEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN I AM.
IN SEVEN YEARS, A MAN CAN GENERALLY BECOME SOMETHING.

A vague memory fleshed in the back of my mind.
Somehow, it seemed like we knew each other.
I found myself nonchalantly following this man.
I wasn't sure what to believe.
It felt like I'd seen it all before somewhere.
This very scene. This very conversation...
And I found myself hastily chasing after him.
YES.
I HAVE TO DO SOME SHOPPING OVER THERE.

As I entered...
It was a gift shop.
UH
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
AS A MEMENTO
I SHOULD GET SOME-THING, TOO..
A... MEMENTO ?
NO, I WAS THINKING OF GETTING IT FOR MY SISTER
IS IT FOR YOUR SWEET-HEART?
FOR BEING A STRAY SHEEP...
STRAY SHEEP?
I CAN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND YOU. WHAT COULD YOU BE THINKING OF?
WHAT WOULD YOU NEED IT FOR?
I DON'T QUITE GET IT.
WHAT ABOUT SOME-THING LIKE THIS?
FOR.. GETTING MYSELF LOST.

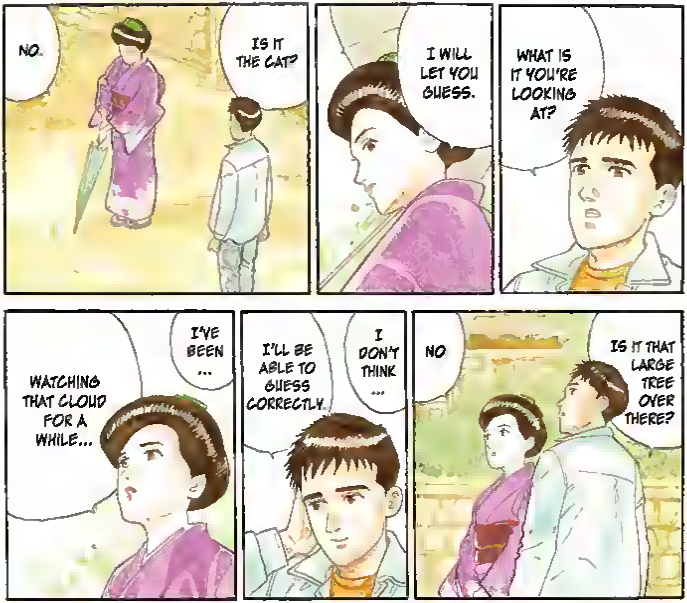
WELCOME.
THE BEST RESTAURANT IN THIS AREA.
-From there, we walked on until we reached Masago-machi.
RESTAURA
HERE.
THIS PLACE.
YES, AND BEER AS WELL.
RICE CURRY.
HMM
I AM HAVING THE CUTLET. HOW ABOUT YOU?
OH, MY. I'M VERY HUNGRY.
WHO IS THAT PERSON ?
HM?
AHH, I BELIEVE HE'S A LECTURER IN THE HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT.
AH...

*Udon is usually served chilled in summer and hot in winter
Kamaage udon is the hot variety

EVEN IN SUMMER, HE EATS THE KAMAAGE UDON*.
HIS STUDENTS GOSSIP ABOUT HIM HAVING STOMACH PROBLEMS.
STILL, ISN'T IT UNUSUAL?
TO SEE SOMEONE LIKE HIM IN A RESTAURANT THAT SERVES WESTERN FOOD?
NORMALLY, HE GOES TO THE SOBA PLACE IN OIWAKE.
WELL, I HAVE A FEELING I'VE SEEN HIM SOME-WHERE...
AH...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
DELICIOUS
ISN'T IT?
HERE, TRY A BIT OF THIS CUTLET.
NICE!
CHEW
CHEW

Being alone made me feel anxious, but I really couldn't keep following that man everywhere he went.
We went our separate ways after the meal.
UNTIL THEN.
I HAVE TO GO VISIT MY YOUNGER SISTER NOW.
...
HOW WAS IT?
THANK YOU SO MUCH. BECAUSE OF YOU, I DON'T FEEL QUITE AS LOST.
The sun was already beginning to set.
I just went wherever my feet took me.
With no idea where to go...

AH...
When I got to the top of a long hill...
MEOW
THAT WE'VE MET BEFORE?
IS IT POSSIBLE ...
YOU ARE..
...
AND ALSO...
AT THE LAKE.
THE OTHER DAY AT THE HOSPITAL
YES.


NO.
IS IT THE CAT?
I WILL LET YOU GUESS.
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE LOOKING AT?
I'VE BEEN ...
WATCHING THAT CLOUD FOR A WHILE...
I'LL BE ABLE TO GUESS CORRECTLY.
I DON'T THINK ...
NO
IS IT THAT LARGE TREE OVER THERE?
AND THAT ..
BRILLIANT ORANGE SKY.

HUH?
MEOW
Suddenly, the woman was gone.
Somehow, it felt like I was gently floating in midair.
HEY.
CAT, WAIT!
Led by the black cat, I walked deeper and deeper into the alley.

~The End~

From Sanshirou by Natsume Souseki

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